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REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 13-20 remain allowed. However, the Examiner has withdrawn the allowability of claims 1-12, indicating that they do not comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended to clarify that drive is not powered by both motor power and manual power *at the same time or simultaneously*, which appears to be the Examiner's current understanding of the claims. That interpretation is not described in the specification because that is not how the invention works.

Instead, the invention is directed to a system that can change between motor power and manual power such that the drive assembly "comprises both a motor powered drive option and a manual drive option such that a user may switch between motor power and manual power as necessary." This amendment is supported by the specification at least at page 3, lines 10-14 ("The systems, apparatuses and methods provide for a switch between automatic operation and manual operation and provide a drive assembly that allows for a switch between motor power and manual power"), page 6, line 15 ("The drive assembly 102 can be motor powered or manually powered"), page 8, lines 6-7 ("The drive assembly 102 can be powered by either an electric motor 124 or a human powered hand crank 126"), and the detailed description at pages 8-12 (where a method of switching from automatic or computer controlled operation to manual operation is described).

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The currently rejected claims were amended early in prosecution to clarify that the system is capable of being powered by both manual and motor. This was to clarify a distinction between a system which has *both* options on the *same* system or machine, as opposed to having to replace or convert a motor drive to a hand crank, or vice versa, if a different power option is desired. See, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,659,029 to Rodriguez.

The present amendments simply clarify that the option to switch between power options is provided on the same machine for the user to switch between as necessary, and to further clarify that both power options are not intended for use simultaneously. As previously submitted in the response filed November 28, 2005:

Rodriguez '029 does not teach, suggest or disclose a drive assembly capable of being powered by both manual power and motor power. Although Rodriguez '029 does teach converting a manually operated drive assembly into a "power assisted" drive assembly, it does not teach, suggest or disclose converting the manual drive assembly such that it could be powered by both manual and motor power. Merely converting a drive assembly from receiving one type of power to another does not constitute transforming the drive assembly such that it can function by both manual power and motor power, which, for example, may allow the drive assembly to normally function on motor power, but function on manual power when motor power is not available.

CONCLUSION

Based on these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a patent containing claims 1-20 in due course. If there remain any additional issues to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 404.815.6147.

Apr-26-07 15:10

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T-696 P.12/12 F-134

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Respectfully submitted,

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PAGE 12/12 * RCVD AT 4/26/2007 3:04:39 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/11 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+4048156118 * DURATION (mm:ss):02:34